



Carbohydrate Research 274 (1995) 123-136

Direct glycosylation of protected O-tritylserine esters and oligopeptides

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Received 4 August 1992; accepted in revised form 27 January 1995

Abstract

N-Fmoc-3-O-Tr-L-serine methyl and benzyl esters, as well as a tripeptide FmocAlaSer(Tr)GlyOBn were directly glycosylated by 3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-1,2-O-(1-cyanoethylidene)- α -D-galactopyranose in the presence of TrClO₄ in dichloromethane, yielding 32–57% of N-Fmoc-3-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl- β -D-galactopyranosyl)-L-serine esters and the corresponding tripeptide.

Keywords: Glycosylation; N-9-Fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-O-tritylserine esters; Serine glycosides; Serine glycopeptides; Cyanoethylidene condensation

1. Introduction

Recently, growing interest has been focused on the development of convenient methods for synthesising O-glycopeptides. These are partial structures of glycoproteins, which are important components of cell membranes. These glycoproteins play a key role in biological recognition processes, for example, the recognition of antigens by receptors, cell-cell communication, immunological response, or intracellular transport of proteins [1]. The progress in this field in the course of the last few years has been summarised in several reviews [2–9].

Two general strategies of synthesising O-glycopeptides have been used: the more common solid-phase or solution synthesis of the peptide chain with utilisation of

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$$\begin{array}{c} R^{1}O \\ O \\ R^{1}O \\ O \\ CH_{3} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} H \\ NHR^{2} \\ CH_{2}Cl_{2} \\ \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} R^{1}O \\ O \\ CH_{2}Cl_{2} \\ \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} R^{1}O \\ O \\ \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} AcO \\ O \\ \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} R^{3} \\ \end{array}$$

 R^1 = protecting group or protected fragment of carbohydrate group R^2 , R^3 = protecting group or protected fragments of the peptide chain

Scheme 1.

suitably protected O-glycosylated hydroxy amino acids as building-blocks of the peptide chain [2-5,10,11] or, rarely, the direct glycosylation of previously obtained oligopeptides [12-15] as occurs in the natural synthesis of O-glycoproteins.

In the synthesis of O-glycosylated hydroxy amino acids modern variants of the Koenigs-Knorr [2-5,10,16-18], trichloracetimidate [5,6,17,19-21], or thioglycoside methods [2,22-24] are commonly used.

One of the reactions, potentially of value in both strategies, is the glycosylation of trityl ethers of protected hydroxy amino acids or their protected oligopeptides 1 with acyloxonium cations 2 formed in situ from suitably protected glycosyl donors (Scheme 1).

We now report the application of this reaction to the synthesis of protected serine glycosides and the direct glycosylation of protected trityl ethers of serine oligopeptides.

The use of trityl ethers in glycoside synthesis has a long tradition. The literature up to the late seventies has been reviewed by Bochkov and Zaikov [25]. Selective tritylation of the primary hydroxyl group, followed by complete acylation or benzylation of the remaining hydroxyl groups, and final acidolytic detritylation leads to derivatives with a selectively deprotected primary hydroxyl group. These have been widely used as glycosyl acceptors in numerous disaccharide syntheses to give $(1 \rightarrow 6)$ -linked D-glucose, D-galactose, and D-mannose, and $(1 \rightarrow 5)$ -linked L-arabinofuranose [25].

Bredereck et al. [26] observed that acyl cations react directly with trityl ethers of primary carbohydrate hydroxyl groups with cleavage of the ether bond. They employed this reaction in glycosylation and obtained disaccharides in good yield [27–29]. The same key stage was accomplished by Kochetkov and co-workers in the synthesis of di-, oligo-, and poly-saccharides, starting with protected 1,2-O-(1-cyanoethylidene) monosaccharides as glycosyl donors and carbohydrate trityl ethers as glycosyl acceptors [30]. The results of Kochetkov's group have been reviewed in detail [31].

On the other hand, Barlos and co-workers have developed a convenient method of synthesising N-(9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl)-O-trityl hydroxy amino acids and their oligopeptides [32], which are convenient starting materials for the synthesis of O-glycopeptides. In such syntheses the choice of groups protecting the amino and carboxy

Scheme 2.

functions of amino acids or oligopeptides is especially important because they have to be removed without destroying the acid-sensitive glycosidic bond, or inducing base-catalysed β -elimination in serine or threonine derivatives. The problems of the proper selection of protecting groups for the glycopeptide synthesis have been discussed [2–5]. From this point of view the choice of the 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl (Fmoc) group for temporary protection of the amino function is very convenient, because it can be removed under mild basic conditions by means of secondary amines such as piperidine or morpholine. Similarly the protection of carboxyl groups as benzyl esters, which are easily removable by catalytic hydrogenolysis, is also recommended [4].

2. Results and discussion

Following Barlos at al. [32], we synthesised in a similar way new N-Fmoc-O-Tr-serine methyl and benzyl esters (7 and 11), as suitable starting materials for preliminary experiments in the glycosylation of serine trityl ethers (Scheme 2). Thus, the serine methyl and benzyl esters (4 and 8) were tritylated on both amino and side-chain hydroxyl functions. The resulting N,O-ditritylserine esters (5 and 9) were selectively detritylated at the α -amino group by 1% trifluoroacetic acid in dichloromethane, at 0°C in a few minutes. TLC revealed that under such conditions N-detritylation was incomplete, but on the other hand prolongation of the reaction time or using higher concentrations of trifluoroacetic acid causes undesired O-detritylation. The N-deprotected O-tritylserine esters 6 and 10 were readily acylated in high yield under classical Carpino conditions [33] to give the N-Fmoc-O-Tr derivatives 7 and 11.

FmocAlaSer(Tr)GlyOBn (15), the model tripeptide used to check the possibility of direct glycosylation of protected O-tritylserine oligopeptides, was obtained according to a similar scheme (Scheme 3), where serine was incorporated into the peptide chain in excellent yield from the triethylamine salt 12 of the acid by means of the carbodiimide method with N-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT) as a promoter.

Scheme 3.

The resulting dipeptide ester 13 was selectively N-detritylated as described above, and the N-deprotected dipeptide 14 condensed with FmocAlaOH, similarly to N, O-ditritylserine. Owing to the high reactivity of the N-hydroxybenzotriazolyl esters of the amino acids formed in situ, the yields of compounds 13 and 15 were high (> 85%).

For experiments on the direct glycosylation of the protected trityl ethers of serine (7 and 11) we selected the Bochkov and Kochetkov variant for the generation of dioxolenium cations 2, starting from the well-characterised 1,2-cyanoethylidene carbohydrate derivative 16a and b [34] and trityl perchlorate as catalyst [30] (Scheme 4). The reaction of compounds 7 and 11 with 3,4,6-tri-O-acetyl-1,2-O-[(exo and endo)-1-cyanoethylidene]-D-galactopyranose 1 (16a,b), performed under conditions similar to the Kochetkov synthesis of disaccharides, in dichloromethane, with 0.05-0.1 mole TrClO₄ as a catalyst for 1 mole of substrates, gave the expected β -glycosides in a low yield of 35% (18) and 32% (19), respectively. The structure of both products was confirmed by MS, and by 1 H and 13 C NMR spectra.

We have also shown that the protected serine tripeptide 15 is a suitable glycosyl acceptor in this reaction. The glycosylation of this tripeptide under Kochetkov's conditions gave the β -glycoside 20 with a yield of 37%, better than in the glycosylation of compounds 7 and 11.

Similarly, in the reaction of hepta-O-acetyl-1,2-O-(1-cyanoethylidene)lactose (mixture of *exo* and *endo* isomers, **17a** and **17b**) with N-FmocSer(Tr)OBn (**11**) we obtained a low yield (20%) of N-9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-O-[2,3,6-tri-O-acetyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl- β -D-galactopyranosyl)- β -D-glucopyranosyl]-L-serine benzyl ester (**21**).

¹ exo and endo refer to the methyl group [34], and correspond to R and S configurations, respectively.

In the case of glycosyl donors bearing participating groups like OAc or OBz in the neighbourhood of the anomeric centre, which could form acyloxonium cations of type 2 such as 22 and 23 (Scheme 5), the expected glycosylation products are 1,2-trans(here β)-glycosides 18-21, because nucleophilic attack of the trityl ether on C-1 takes place from the rearside to the C-O linkage. Nevertheless the formation of α anomers 24-27 in amounts varying between 0 to 50% of the yield in other similar systems has been observed [31].

The stereoselectivity of this reaction is strongly dependent on the structure of the trityl ether, on the nature of the initiator, or more precisely on the tritylium salt anion, and on the pressure in the reaction system [31]. The formation of *cis*-glycosides 24–27 (see Scheme 5) could be explained by transforming the dioxolenium bicyclic cations 22 or 23 into monocyclic glycosyl cations 28, 29 which are open to nucleophilic attack from both sides. Another possibility is a nucleophilic attack of the perchlorate anion, followed by its second substitution by trityl ether [31].

In our experiments we have isolated β -glycosides as the main products, but also other fractions, in very low yield, which on the basis of their ¹H NMR and UV spectra, as well as TLC colour test reactions, contained both Fmoc and carbohydrate units. They were not pure enough for conclusive identification, but from their amounts we can conclude that the ratio between β - and α -glycosides was better than 4:1.

The low yields and low rates of the reaction prompted us to test its optimisation. Experiments were performed on the scale of several milligrams using as an example the reaction of FmocSer(Tr)OBn (11) and the glycosyl donor 16a,b, in the presence of TrClO₄ as the catalyst, and followed by an HPLC method especially designed for this purpose. The experiments showed that according to the conditions proposed for disaccharide syntheses [30] the reaction is very slow and is incomplete after several hours. The reactivity of serine trityl ethers is essentially lower than the reactivity of 6-trityl ethers of carbohydrate derivatives. To improve the yield and reaction rate, we tested the influence of the ratio between the catalyst (tritylium perchlorate) and substrates on the yield of glycoside 19. The results are presented in Fig. 1. The initial reaction rates are strongly dependent on the concentrations of the catalyst. The highest yields of the main product, more than 60% [by conversion of the starting material FmocSer(Tr)OBn, 85%], were observed with an almost stoichiometric amount of the catalyst after 5 h. However, lower amounts of the catalyst, between 0.25-0.5 mole for 1 mole of substrates, also gave yields above 50%, but after a longer time. In the case of stoichiometric amounts of the catalyst we observed a diminishing yield with longer reaction times, revealing a contribution of further reactions.

One of the side reactions in this system is the formation of *O*-acetyl-*N*-(9-fluoren-ylmethoxycarbonyl)-L-serine benzyl ester [FmocSer(Ac)OBn, 32]. We have isolated this compound in 20% yield from the reaction mixture, and identified it from its ¹H NMR, mass, and UV spectra. Formation of a similar product of acylation of the aglycon was observed earlier by Banoub and Bundle [35,36].

Preparative results were in good agreement with the small-scale observations. Deduced from Fig. 1 the initial reaction rates for 5-10 mol% of catalyst lead to the conclusion that after several hours the yield of the product should be ca. 30-40%, as we had found.

7

11

15 18, 24

19, 25 21, 27

20, 26

Scheme 5. Formation of α - and β -glycosides in the reaction of trityl ethers and dioxolenium cations (according to ref. [31]).

A preparative experiment under optimised conditions gave an isolated yield of 57% of compound 19, and 47% of compound 21, dependent on the quality of the chromatographic separation. HPLC analysis revealed other limitations of these reactions. In the

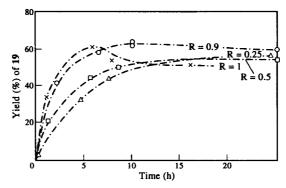


Fig. 1. The influence of the ratio (R) between substrate FmocSer(Tr)OBn 11 and catalyst TrClO₄ on the yield of FmocSer(Ac₄- β -D-Gal p)OBn 19 (molar ratio between 11 and 16a,b = 1).

reaction mixture we observed three other side-products containing the fluorenyl moiety. One of them was N-FmocSer(H)OBn, formed from FmocSer(Tr)OBn under the influence of trityl perchlorate after hydrolysis in the analytical system. Two others, on the basis of their ¹H NMR spectra, were recognised as the α -glycoside 25 and probably the ortho-ester 33a,b (mixture of exo and endo forms, signal of ortho-ester Me group, δ ca. 1.64). However, they were isolated in small amounts and were not pure enough for conclusive identification. Formation of ortho-esters was also observed by Polt et al. [18] in a similar reaction.

The conclusion is that one should not expect yields of the main product higher than 60-70% in this reaction system. The advantage of this approach in comparison with other established methods is the direct reaction of protected serine derivatives and oligopeptides, without deprotection and purification of O-deprotected derivatives. The direct glycosylation of resin-bound peptides has also been shown to be possible [15,37]; however, it offers lower yields compared to the building block strategy [37] and needs optimisation to be the method of choice.

3. Experimental

General methods.—Serine methyl and benzyl esters, FmocCl, and HOBT were commercial products from Serva (Heidelberg, Germany), FmocAlaOH was from Bachem Feinchemical AG (Bubendorf, Switzerland), and L-serine benzyl ester from Sigma (Deisenhofen, Germany). The melting points were determined with an apparatus according to Dr Tottoli and are uncorrected. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on Tesla 80, Bruker 90, and Bruker 250 MHz spectrometers in CDCl₃ (if not specified otherwise), EI-MS spectra were run on an MAT-11 mass spectrometer (Institute of Biochemistry of the German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany). The specific rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer type 241 polarimeter (Institute of Biochemistry II, Heidelberg University, Germany). Column chromatography was carried out on Kieselgel 60 (240-400 mesh) from E. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany, and monitored by TLC on DC sheets Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄ from E. Merck. Preparative TLC was carried out on Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄ precoated sheets from E. Merck. The components were detected by UV light (compounds containing Fmoc moiety), or by spraying with concd H₂SO₄ containing 1% of vanillin (Tr-containing components gave yellow spots immediately after contact with H₂SO₄; carbohydrate derivatives were visualised as black stains after heating in a stream of hot air). HPLC was carried out on the Hewlett-Packard 1090-LC system using an RP-18-5 μ 250 + 4.6 mm column; flow, 1.5 mL/min; linear gradient from 1:1 CH₃CN-H₂O to 100% CH₃CN in 50 min; detection $\lambda = 300$ nm (for Fmoc-containing components). Methylene chloride used as a solvent for glycosylation was carefully dried by boiling for several hours over CaH2 and distilled from CaH2 into a reaction flask immediately before the reaction.

N,O-Ditrityl-L-serine methyl ester (5).—This compound was obtained in a similar way to Dijkman et al. [38]. To L-serine methyl ester (4) hydrochloride (1.56 g, 10 mmol) in CHCl₃ (20 mL) was added triethylamine (TEA) (3.58 g, 4.92 mL, 35 mmol), followed by trityl chloride (5.57 g, 20 mmol), added in two portions. The mixture, protected by a CaCl₂ tube, was cooled during the first exothermic period of the reaction and stirred for 17 h, then it was dissolved in CHCl₃, washed with water, dried over CaCl₂, and evaporated. The residue was evaporated twice with EtOH. After the addition of EtOH (30 mL), crystallisation occurred to yield 5 (3.2 g, 53%); mp 130–135°C (from EtOH); 1 H NMR (80 MHz): δ 7.8–7.13 (m, 31 H, 2 Tr, NH), 3.8–3.3 (m, 3 H, 2 H β -Ser, H α -Ser), 3.2 (s, 3 H, OMe).

O-Trityl-L-serine methyl ester (6).—To 20 mL of 1% CF_3CO_2H in CH_2Cl_2 , cooled in an ice-bath, was added 5 (0.5 g, 0.83 mmol). The mixture was stirred for 3 min and the solvents were evaporated at low temperature. The residue, dissolved in $CHCl_3$, was washed with aq 5% $NaHCO_3$ and water, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and chromatographed on silica gel to give 6 as an oil (125 mg, 41%); ¹H NMR (80 MHz): δ 7.6–7.18 (m, 15 H, Γ r), 3.7 (s, 3 H, OMe), 3.68–3.15 (m, 3 H, 2 H β -Ser, $H\alpha$ -Ser), 1.98 (s, 2 H, NH_2).

N-9-Fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-O-trityl-L-serine methyl ester (7).—To 6 (121 mg, 0.335 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (8 mL) and aq 10% Na₂CO₃ (10 mL) was added dropwise a solution of 9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl chloride (87 mg, 0.335 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (3 mL), while being stirred and cooled in an ice-bath. The mixture was stirred for 1.5 h at

the temperature of the ice-bath and for 15 h at room temperature. Then EtOAc (30 mL) and water (30 mL) were added, and the water phase was extracted 3 times with EtOAc (10 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with aq 1% citric acid, aq 5% NaHCO₃, and water, dried, and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel to yield 7 (114 mg, 69%) as an oil; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 3.6^{\circ}$ (c 2, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (80 MHz): δ 7.8–7.15 (m, 23 H, Tr, Ar-Fmoc), 5.7 (d, 1 H, NH), 4.7–4.0 (m, 4 H, C H_2 CH-Fmoc, H α -Ser), 3.75 (s, 3 H, OMe), 3.6–3.3 (m, 2 H, 2 H β -Ser). Anal. Calcd for C₃₈H₃₃NO₅: C, 78.20; H, 5.70; N, 2.40. Found: C, 78.35; H, 5.49; N, 2.21.

N,O-Ditrityl-L-serine benzyl ester (9).—L-Serine benzyl ester (8) hydrochloride (1.16 g, 5 mmol), trityl chloride (3.6 g, 11 mmol), and TEA (1.61 g, 2.22 mL, 16 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (15 mL) were stirred for 24 h. Then CH₂Cl₂ (50 mL) was added, and the solution was washed with water, dried over CaCl₂, and evaporated. The oily residue was boiled with EtOH (40 mL) to give solid 9 (3.2 g, 94%); mp 156–157°C (from EtOH); ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.50–7.10 (m, 35 H, Tr, CH₂Ph), 4.67 (d, 1 H, CH_aH_bPh), 4.45 (d, 1 H, CH_aH_bPh), 3.59 (m, 1 H, H α -Ser), 3.43 (dd, 1 H, H β a-Ser), 3.33 (dd, 1 H, H β b-Ser), 2.86 (d, 1 H, NH); $J_{\text{Ha,Hb}}$ 12.4, $J_{\text{H}\alpha,\text{H}\betaa}$ 4.7, $J_{\text{H}\alpha,\text{H}\betab}$ 6.6, $J_{\text{H}\betaa,\text{H}\betab}$ 8.6, $J_{\text{NH,CH}\alpha}$ 10.4 Hz. Anal. Calcd for C₄₈H₄₁NO₃: C, 84.80; H, 6.08; N, 2.06. Found: C, 84.54; H, 6.21; N, 2.17.

O-Trityl-L-serine benzyl ester (10).—To 9 (1 g, 1.47 mmol), dissolved in CH_2Cl_2 (50 mL) and cooled to 0°C, was added CF_3CO_2H (0.3 mL). After 5 min, the solvent and excess of CF_3CO_2H were evaporated at a low temperature, the residue was dissolved in MeOH and evaporated, and a solution of the residue in EtOAc was washed with aq 5% NaHCO₃ and H_2O , dried over Na_2SO_4 , and chromatographed on silica gel, to yield 10 as an oil [665 mg (the product contained one molecule of eluent acetone), 91%]. ¹H NMR (80 MHz): δ 7.7–7.1 (m, 20 H, Tr, CH_2Ph), 5.2 (s, 2 H, CH_2Ph), 3.8–3.3 (m, 3 H, 2 H β -Ser, H α -Ser), 2.08 (s, 6 H, CH_3COCH_3), 1.8 (s, 2 H, NH_2).

N-9-Fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-O-trityl-L-serine benzyl ester (11).—To 10 (600 mg, 1.37 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (6 mL) and aq 10% Na₂CO₃ (10 mL), cooled to 0°C, was added dropwise a solution of FmocCl (355 mg, 1.37 mmol) in 1,4-dioxane (10 mL). The mixture was stirred for 1 h at 0°C and 12 h at room temperature. Water (30 mL) and EtOAc (30 mL) were added, the water phase was extracted 3 times with EtOAc, the combined organic extracts were washed with aq 2% citric acid, aq 5% NaHCO₃, and water, then dried over Na₂SO₄ and evaporated to give 11 as a solidifying foam (884 mg, 98%); mp 69–73°C (crude product); $[\alpha]_{\rm p}^{20}+1.2^{\circ}$ (c 2, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.82–7.20 (m, 28 H, Tr, CH₂Ph, Ar-Fmoc), 5.75 (d, 1 H, NH), 5.24 (AB, 2 H, CH_aH_bPh), 4.54 (dt, 1 H, H α -Ser), 4.45–4.15 (m, 3 H, CH₂CH-Fmoc), 3.62 (dd 1 H, H β a-Ser), 3.43 (dd, 1 H, H β b-Ser); J_{HaHbPh} 12, $J_{H\alpha,H\beta a}$ 4.6, $J_{H\alpha,H\beta b}$ 4 Hz, $J_{H\beta a,H\beta b}$ 8.7, $J_{NH,H\alpha}$ 8.2 Hz. Anal. Calcd for C₄₄H₃₇NO₅: C, 80.10; H, 5.65; N, 2.12. Found: C, 80.23; H, 5.76; N, 2.27.

N-Trityl-L-serine triethylamine salt.—This was synthesised according to Barlos at al. [39] (prescription for N-tritylthreonine, Procedure C), 76% yield.

N,O-Ditrityl-L-serine triethylamine salt (12).—The sodium salt of TrSer(Tr)OH was obtained from TrSer(H)OH TEA according to Barlos and co-workers [32,39], transformed into the triethylamine salt, and then purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give 12 as a solidifying foam; 1 H NMR (80 MHz): δ 7.9–6.9 (m, 31 H, 2 Tr,

NH), 3.3 (broad s, 3 H, 2 H β -Ser, H α -Ser), 2.6 (q, 6 H, 3 C H_2 -TEA), 0.9 (t, 9 H, 3 C H_3 -TEA).

N,O-Ditrityl-L-serylglycine benzyl ester (13).—The TEA salt 12 (924 mg 1.57 mmol) and TSA · HGlyOBn (530 mg, 1.57 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (7 mL) were coupled with dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) (323 mg, 1.57 mmol) in the presence of N-hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT) (300 mg, 2.22 mmol) according to the standard procedure, to give 13 as a solidifying foam (1.144 g, 99%); ¹H NMR (80 MHz): δ 7.7–7 (m, 36 H, 2 Tr, CH_2Ph , NH), 5.2 (s, 2 H, CH_2Ph), 3.8 (d, 2 H, 2 H α -Gly), 3.8–2.7 (m, 4 H, 2 H β -Ser, H α -Ser, NH).

O-Trityl-L-serylglycine benzyl ester (14).—TrSer(Tr)GlyOBn 13 (1.144 g, 1.57 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL) was cooled to 0°C and CF₃CO₂H (0.3 mL) was added. After 10 min, the solvents and excess of CF₃CO₂H were evaporated, the residue was dissolved in EtOAc (50 mL), and the solution washed with aq 5% NaHCO₃ and water, then dried and evaporated. The residue was chromatographed on silica gel, to give 14 as an oil (481 mg, 63%); ¹H NMR (80 MHz): δ 8.0–7.0 (m, 20 H, Tr, CH₂Ph), 5.1 (s, 2 H, CH₂Ph), 4.45–3.85 (m, 3 H, 2 H α -Gly, NH), 3.6–3.2 (m, 3 H, 2 H β -Ser, H α -Ser), 2.1 (s, 2 H, NH₂).

N-9-Fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-L-alanyl-O-trityl-L-serylglycine benzyl ester (15).— HSer(Tr)GlyOBn 14 (386 mg, 0.78 mmol) and Fmoc-L-AlaOH (243 mg, 0.78 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (6 mL) were coupled with DDC (161 mg, 0.78 mmol) in the presence of HOBT (180 mg, 1.18 mmol) for 2 h at -10° C and then for 14 h at room temperature. After standard work-up a solid (575 mg) was obtained, and purified by column chromatography on silica gel to give 15 (534 mg, 87%); $[\alpha]_{0}^{20} + 5.7^{\circ}$ (c 1, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.78–7.10 (m, 29 H, Tr, Ar-Fmoc, CH₂Ph, NH), 6.68 (d, 1 H, NH), 5.20 (t, 1 H, NH-Gly), 5.16 (s, 2 H, CH₂Ph), 4.55 (m, 1 H, H α -Ala), 4.43 (dd, 1 H, H α -Ser), 4.30–4.20 (m, 2 H, CH₂-Fmoc), 4.12 (pseudo-t, 2 H, 2 H α -Gly), 3.93 (dd, 1 H, H β a-Ser), 3.70 (dd, 1 H, CH-Fmoc), 3.22 (dd, 1 H, H β b-Ser), 1.62 (d, 3 H, H β -Ala). 3,4,6-Tri-O-acetyl-1,2-O-[(exo and endo)-1-cyanoethylidene]- α -D-galactopyranose (16a,b).—This was synthesised according to ref [34] as a mixture of exo and endo isomers (83%).

3,6-Di-O-acetyl-1,2-O-[(exo and endo)-1-cyanoethylidene]-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl- β -D-galactopyranosyl)- α -D-glucopyranose (17a,b).—Hepta-O-acetyl- α -lactosyl bromide (1.924 g, 2.75 mmol), KCN (1.63 g, 25 mmol), and (n-Bu)₄NBr (750 mg, 2.3 mmol) in dry MeCN (15 mL) were stirred at 20°C for 20 h, then diluted with EtOAc (150 mL), washed with water (7 × 50 mL), and dried over Na₂SO₄. Solvents were evaporated, the residue was dissolved in CHCl₃ (5 mL), the solution was filtered through a 3-cm layer of silica gel [elution with 1:2 CHCl₃—petroleum ether (100 mL)] and concentrated, and the residue was chromatographed on silica gel to yield 854 mg (48%) of an oily mixture of exo and endo isomers (δ CMe groups in ¹H NMR: 1.92 for endo and 1.75 for exo isomers). After additional chromatography on silica gel the pure endo isomer 17b was obtained (330 mg, 19%); ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 5.75 (d, 1 H, H-1), 5.62 (dd, 1 H, H-3), 5.38 (dd, 1 H, H-4'). 5.17 (dd, 1 H, H-2'), 5.00 (dd, 1 H, H-3'), 4.60 (d, 1 H, H-1'), 4.39 (ddd, 1 H, H-2), 4.20 (dd, 1 H, H-6a), 4.18–4.04 (m, 3 H, H-6a', H-6b', H-6b), 3.96 (dt, 1 H, H-5'), 3.78 (ddd, 1 H, H-5), 3.63 (dt, 1 H, H-4), 2.17–1.97 (6 s, 18 H, 6 Ac), 1.92 (s, 3 H, CMe); for galactose ring: $J_{1',2'}$ 7.9, $J_{2',3'}$ 10.5,

 $J_{3',4'}$ 3.5, $J_{4',5'}$ 1.2, $J_{5',6a'}$ 6.5, $J_{5',6b'}$ 6.5, $J_{6a',6b'}$ 12 Hz; for glucose ring: $J_{1,2}$ 5.1, $J_{2,3}$ 2.8, $J_{2,4}$ 1.1, $J_{3,4}$ 1.2, $J_{4.5}$ 9.4, $J_{5,6a}$ 2.4, $J_{5,6b}$ 5.6, $J_{6a,6b}$ 12 Hz; 13 C NMR: δ 170.5, 170.4, 170.2, 170.0, 169.4, 163.2 (6 ester C=O), 116.5 (CN), 102.7 (C-1'), 99.2 (CMe), 97.2 (C-1), 77.2, 74.0, 71.0, 70.9, 69.0, 68.9, 67.4, 66.8 (C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-2', C-3', C-4', C-5'), 63.1, 60.9 (C-6, C-6'), 24.2 (CMe), 20.8, 20.7, 20.64, 20.62, 20.53 (6 COMe).

N-9-Fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-galactopyranosyl)-Lserine methyl ester (18).—FmocSer(Tr)OMe 7 (114 mg, 0.195 mmol) and 3,4,6-tri-Oacetyl-1,2-O-(1-cyanoethylidene)- α -D-galactose (16a,b) (60 mg, 0.21 mmol) were dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and evaporated. The residue was dried for about 1 h under vacuum. Dichloromethane (ca. 8 mL), boiled over CaH₂, was distilled into the residue, followed by the addition of TrClO₄ (8 mg). The mixture was left for 16 h at room temperature, protected against contact with traces of water. Then 1:1 MeOH-pyridine (1 mL) was added, followed by CH₂Cl₂ (30 mL), the mixture was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated, and the residue was dissolved in CH₂Cl₂ and chromatographed on Kieselgel to yield 18 (35%) as an oil; TLC: R_f 0.48 (1:1 hexaneacetone); HPLC t_R 10.1 min; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 5.5^{\circ}$ (c 1, CHCl₃) MS(EI): M⁺ 671; calcd 671. Fragmentation: m/z 612, 475, 390, 331, 179, 178(B), 165, 130, 115, 102, 81, 43, 28, 18. ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.83–7.33 (dd + m, 8 H, Ar-Fmoc), 5.57 (d, 1 H, NH), 5.37 (dd, 1 H, H-4), 5.16 (dd, 1 H, H-2), 4.99 (dd, 1 H, H-3), 4.72-4.38 (m, 3 H, CH₂CH-Fmoc), 4.42 (d, 1 H, H-1), 4.30–4.20 (m, 2 H, H α -Ser and H β a-Ser), 4.13 (d, 2 H, H-6a, H-6b), 3.91–3.80 (m, 2 H, Hβb-Ser, H-5), 3.77 (s, 3 H, OMe), 2.14–1.94 (4 s, 12 H, 4 Ac); $J_{1,2}$ 7.9, $J_{2,3}$ 10.5, $J_{3,4}$ 3.4, $J_{4,5}$ 1.2, $J_{5,6a} = J_{5,6b} = 6.5$ Hz; ¹³C NMR: δ 170.3, 170.1, 170.0, 169.9, 169.3 (5 ester CO), 155.7 (NHCOO), 143.7, 143.5, 141.2 (4 aromatic quaternary carbons-Fmoc), 127.7, 127.0, 124.9, 120.0 (8 aromatic tertiary carbons-Fmoc), 101.6 (C-1), 70.7, 70.6 (C-3, C-5), 69.4 (Cβ-Ser), 66.9, 66.8 (CH₂-Fmoc, C-2), 64.5 (C-4), 61.1 (C-6), 54.2 (C α -Ser), 52.7 (OMe), 47.1 (CH-Fmoc), 20.5, 20.47 (4 CMe). Anal. Calcd for C₃₃H₃₇NO₁₄: C, 59.01; H, 5.55; N, 2.09. Found: C, 58.89; H, 5.67; N, 2.01.

N-9-Fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-galactopyranosyl)-Lserine benzyl ester (19).—It was synthesised like 18 from 11 and 16a,b: (a) molar ratios 11:16a,b:TrClO₄ = 1:1:0.3, reaction time 16 h, yield 32%; (b) molar ratios 11:16a,b:TrClO₄ = 1:1:1, reaction time 16 h, yield 53%; (c) molar ratios 11:16a,b:TrClO₄ = 1:1:1, reaction time 5 h, yield 57%. Compound 19 was an oil; $[\alpha]_0^{20}$ -1.2° (c 1, CHCl₃); TLC: R_f 0.34 (1:1 hexane-EtOAc); HPLC: t_R 16.5 min MS(EI): M^+ 747.2502; calcd for $C_{39}H_{41}NO_{14}$ 747.2527. Fragmentation: m/z 703, 557, 491, 428, 390, 331, 196, 179, 178(base), 165, 151, 91, 89, 43, 18. 1 H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.78-7.25 (m, 13 H, Ar-Fmoc, CH₂Ph), 5.62 (d, 1 H, NH-Ser), 5.36 (dd, 1 H, H-4), 5.20 (s, 2 H, CH₂Ph), 5.17 (dd, 1 H, H-2), 4.98 (dd, 1 H, H-3), 4.41 (d, 1 H, H-1), 4.55-4.27 (m, 4 H, CH₂CH-Fmoc, H α -Ser), 4.22 (t, 1 H, H β a-Ser), 4.11 (d, 2 H, H-6a, H-6b), 3.91–3.78 (m, 2 H, H β b-Ser, H-5), 2.14–1.98 (4 s, 12 H, 4 Ac); $J_{1,2}$ 7.8, $J_{2,3}$ 10.5, $J_{3,4}$ 3.4, $J_{4,5}$ 1.9, $J_{5,6a} = J_{5,6b} = 6.9$ Hz; ¹³C NMR: δ 170.3, 170.1, 170.0, 169.4 (5 ester C = 0), 155.8 (NHCOO), 143.8, 143.6, 141.3 (4 quaternary aromatic carbons-Fmoc), 135.1 (quaternary aromatic carbon-CH₂Ph), 128.6, 128.1, 127.7, 125.0, 124.9, 120.0 (13 aromatic tertiary carbons), 101.6 (C-1), 70.8, 70.7 (C-3, C-5), 69.5 (Cβ-Ser), 68.6 (C-2), 67.6 (CH₂-Fmoc) 66.9 (CH₂Ph), 66.8 (C-4), 61.1 (C-6),

54.4 (C α -Ser), 47.1 (CH-Fmoc), 20.6, 20.55, 20.53 (4 CMe). Anal. Calcd for $C_{39}H_{41}NO_{14}$: C, 62.65; H, 5.53; N, 1.87. Found: C, 62.53; H, 5.66; N, 1.74.

N-9-Fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-L-alanyl-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-galactopyranosyl)-L-serylglycine benzyl ester (20).—Ester 20 was obtained, according to a procedure similar to that for the serine glycosides 18 and 19, from 15 and 16a,b and isolated by column chromatography, followed by preparative TLC, to yield 20 as an oil (37%); $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 2.8^{\circ}$ (c 1, CHCl₃); TLC: R_f 0.43 (5:1 CHCl₃-acetone); ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.8–7.27 (m, 13 H Ar-Fmoc, CH₂Ph), 7.06 (t, 1 H, NH-Gly), 6.86 (d, 1 H, NH-Ala), 5.52 (d, 1 H, NH-Ser), 5.37 (dd, 1 H, H-4), 5.18 (dd, 1 H, H-2), 5.15 (s, 2 H, CH_2 Ph), 5.02 (dd, 1 H, H-3), 4.8–4.66 (m, 1 H, H α -Ala), 4.54 (d, 1 H, H-1), 4.50–3.80 (m, 11 H, CH₂CH-Fmoc, 2 H α -Gly, 2 H β -Ser, H α -Ser, H-5, H-6a, H-6b), 2.2-1.96 (4 s, 12 H, 4 Ac), 1.41 (d, 3 H, H β -Ala); $J_{1,2}$ 7.8, $J_{2,3}$ 10.42, $J_{3,4}$ 3.45, $J_{4,5}$ 1.16 Hz; 13 C NMR: δ 172.5, 170.5, 170.2, 170.0, 169.97, 169.3, 169.2 (7 ester and amide C=O), 156.1 (NHCOO), 143.8, 143.77, 141.32, 141.31 (4 quaternary aromatic carbons-Fmoc), 135.2 (quaternary aromatic carbon-CH₂Ph), 127.8, 127.14, 127.11, 125.1, 120.0 (13 aromatic tertiary carbons), 101.8 (C-1), 71.2, 70.6 (C-5, C-3), 68.93 $(C\beta\text{-Ser})$, 68.89 (C-2), 67.2 (CH₂-Fmoc), 66.98 (CH₂Ph), 66.87 (C-4), 61.3 (C-6), 52.3 (C α -Ser), 50.8 (C α -Ala), 47.1 (CH-Fmoc), 41.6 (C α -Gly), 20.6, 20.54, 20.51 (4 CMe), 18.6 (C β -Ala). Anal. Calcd for C₄₄H₄₉N₃O₁₆: C, 60.34; H, 5.64; N, 4.80. Found: C, 60.68; H, 5.81; N, 4.78.

N-9-Fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-O-[2,3,6-tri-O-acetyl-4-O-(2,3,4,6-tetra-O-acetyl-β-D-galactopyranosyl)- β -D-glucopyranosyl]-L-serine benzyl ester (21).—Ester 21 was synthesised, similarly to 18, from 17a,b (152 mg, 0.24 mmol), 11 (152 mg, 0.23 mmol), and TrClO₄ (8 mg); reaction time, 44 h; separated by preparative TLC (5:1 CHCl₃-EtOAc) R_f 0.59; HPLC: t_R 17.4 min; yield, 48 mg (20%). By use of molar ratios 11:17a,b:TrClO₄ = 1:1:0.8 and a reaction time of 16 h, the yield was 47%; oil; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -0.8° (c 1, CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.78 (d, 2 H, Ar-Fmoc), 7.60 (d, 2 H, Ar-Fmoc), 7.44-7.28 (m, 9 H, Ar-Fmoc, CH₂Ph), 5.63 (d, 1 H, NH), 5.34 (dd, 1 H, H-4'), 5.23–5.13 (m, 3 H, CH₂Ph, H-1), 5.12 (dd, 1 H, H-2'), 4.96 (dd, 1 H, H-3'), 4.86 (dd, 1 H, H-2), 4.56-4.35 (m, 5 H, H α , H β a-Ser, C H_2 -Fmoc, H-6a), 4.47 (d, 1 H, H-1'), 4.30-4.01 (m, 5 H, CH-Fmoc, H-6a', H-6b', H-3, H-6b), 3.88-3.80 (m, 3 H, H-2, H-5', H β b-Ser), 3.75 (dd, 1 H, H-4), 3.52 (ddd, 1 H, H-5), 2.18–1.97 (7 s, 21 H, 7Ac); for galactose ring: $J_{1',2'}$ 7.8, $J_{2',3'}$ 10.4, $J_{3',4'}$ 3.4, $J_{5',6a'}$ 7.0, $J_{5',6b'}$ 6.5, $J_{6a',6b'} \sim$ 10 Hz; for glucose ring: $J_{1,2}$ 8, $J_{2,3}$ 9.3, $J_{3,4}$ 9.2 Hz; 13 C NMR: δ 170.2, 170.0, 169.9, 169.5, 169.4, 169.3, 168.9 (8 ester C=O), 155.8 (NHCOO), 143.7, 143.6, 141.3, 141.2 (4 quaternary aromatic carbons-Fmoc), 135.1 (quaternary aromatic carbon-CH₂Ph), 128.5, 128.4, 128.1, 127.7, 127.0, 124.9, 120.0 (13 tertiary aromatic carbons), 100.96 (C-1'), 100.81 (C-1), 76.0 (C-4), 72.6, 72.5, 71.4, 70.9, 70.6, 69.0 (C-2, C-3, C-5, C-2', C-3', C-5'), 69.4 (C β -Ser), 67.5, 67.0 (CH₂-Fmoc, CH₂Ph), 66.6 (C-4'), 61.8, 60.8 (C-6, C-6'), 54.5 (C α -Ser), 47.1 (CH-Fmoc), 20.7, 20.69, 20.53, 20.46, 20.41 (7 CMe). Anal. Calcd for C₅₁H₅₇NO₂₂: C, 59.13; H, 5.55; N, 1.35. Found: C, 59.31; H, 5.42; N, 1.48.

O-Acetyl-N-9-fluorenylmethoxycarbonyl-serine benzyl ester (32).—Ester 32 was isolated from the reaction products in the synthesis of compound 19; molar ratios (b); oil; yield, 13 mg (20%); TLC: R_f 0.53 (1:1 hexane-EtOAc); HPLC: t_R 11.5 min. MS(EI): M^+ 459.1686. Calcd for $C_{27}H_{25}NO_6$: 459.1682. Fragmentation: m/z 268, 221, 196,

180, 179, 178(base), 177, 176, 166, 165, 102, 91, 89, 43, 28, 18. ¹H NMR (250 MHz): δ 7.75 (d, 2 H, Ar-Fmoc), 7.59 (d, 2 H, Ar-Fmoc), 7.42–7.25 (m, 9 H, Ar-Fmoc, CH₂Ph), 5.60 (d, 1 H, NH), 5.22 (AB, 2 H, CH₂Ph), 4.68 (dt, 1 H, H \$\alpha\$-Ser), 4.51 (dd, 1 H, H \$\beta\$-Ser), 4.42 (d, 2 H, CH₂-Fmoc), 4.35 (dd, 1 H, H \$\beta\$-Ser), 4.23 (t, 1 H, CH-Fmoc), 1.95 (s, 3 H, Ac); J_{AB} 12.1, $J_{NH,H\alpha}$ 8.3, $J_{H\alpha,H\beta}$ 3.6, $J_{H\alpha,H\beta}$ 3.9, $J_{H\beta_a,H\beta_b}$ 11.4, $J_{CH,CH2}$ (Fmoc) 7.2 Hz.

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